

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Preliminary Amendment amends original Claim 23 to produce new amended claims that are not multiply dependent in order to reduce official fees. Once examination on the merits has begun, the Applicants may elect to amend newly amended Claim 23 to make this claim multiply dependent or to add additional claims to this application to provide coverage similar to, broader than, or narrower than the present claims.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, the commissioner is authorized to treat this response a including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service in an Express Mail envelope with sufficient postage for Express Mailing in an envelope addressed as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" mailing Label Number EV301023880US addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

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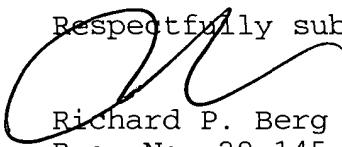
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8-18-03

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Respectfully submitted,


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